2007-05377/

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Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWSRELEASE

November 14, 2005

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN TRAINING TO HELP REDUCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Expert Panels Will Develop Materials To Help Educators Identify And Support Children

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is investing in training to help elementary school teachers, principals and counsellors identify and provide the appropriate supports to students who may be exposed to domestic violence, Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, announced today.

"Educators are among the first to notice if a child is showing physical or emotional signs that indicate exposure to domestic violence," said Pupatello. "Our government is pleased that dedicated education and social service representatives are joining us to ensure a consistent method of identification, intervention, training and response across all school boards."

The $260,000 investment is part of $5.9 million the government is spending for training, research and conferences under its comprehensive, four-year, $66 million Domestic Violence Action Plan. Expert panels will develop training materials and implementation plans for Ontario's English-language and French-language education systems.

"It is critical that teachers, principals and counsellors have the training and information to intervene early and respond in the right way when a student needs help," said Gerard Kennedy, Minister of Education. "By giving students the help they need, we are giving them chance they deserve to succeed."

L to R: Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Serge Plouffe, co-chair of the French-language Expert Training Panel, Irene Charette, co-chair of the French-language Expert Training Panel, Paula Bourne, co-chair of the English-language Expert Training Panel, Normand Labrie, Associate Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs.

"I am pleased that French-language educators will receive training and information designed to meet the specific needs of the Francophone community," said Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs. "Success for French-language students depends on ensuring that they learn and grow in a healthy environment."

"By properly training teachers, principals and counsellors, we can help make sure students are protected," said English-language Education Expert Panel Chair Paula Bourne, head of the Centre for Women's Studies in Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

"Educators need training so that they can identify and respond appropriately to children who have witnessed domestic violence," said Irene Charette of L'Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes.

and French-language Education Expert Panel Co-Chair.

"I am pleased to be making today's announcement during Woman Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario," said Pupatello. "The McGuinty government is taking the critical steps needed to prevent abuse, increase support for women if abuse does occur, and break the cycle of violence."

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